

1960

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Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church

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- HISTORICAL SKETCH -

The Lincoln Memorial Methodist Church had its beginning around 1922, under the leadership of the Rev. G. R. Hollis, a retired member of the Delaware Conference, who had moved to Buffalo. By 1924, the Rev. William R. A. Palmer, an active member of the Delaware Conference, was appointed to the pastorate of the new and growing congregation. In the Fall of 1925, through appropriate actions on the part of various boards and powers within the Genesee Conference of the then Methodist Episcopal Church, the newly-formed congregation was accepted as a part of that conference and was housed in the property formerly owned by the Sentinel Methodist Episcopal Church, located on the corner of Howard and Monroe Streets, Buffalo, New York. For a period of seventeen years the work was regarded as one of the missionary and church extension projects of the Conference.

In February of 1929 the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Palmer was concluded, and on March 1, 1929, the Rev. Mr. William H. Horner, having been duly transferred from the Delaware, to the Genesee Conference, was installed as pastor of the Lincoln Memorial congregation. This matter was negotiated by the late Bishop Ernest G. Richardson of the Philadelphia Area and the late Bishop Adna W. Leonard of the Buffalo Area. The pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Horner was continued until the present time.

From the Fall of 1929, until 1941, the people of the Lincoln Memorial Church, along with Negroes in the country, generally were passing through an almost indescribable and rugged depression. With much of its membership on the welfare rolls, and the others having meager incomes from their job situations, it was difficult to meet the operating costs of the church. These were, indeed, dark and burdensome days and years.

Following the actual involvement of this country in World War II, the depression days were done for our group. Within the next few years, our congregation, through required arrangements, were permitted to purchase the church and parsonage for the sum of \$9,250.00. Subsequently, substantial repairs were made to the property, and an extensive program of renovation was fulfilled.

Early in 1953, another unusual favor was offered to the congregation. It was offered the fabulous property of the Trinity Methodist Church, easily worth \$750,000.00, for \$150,000.00. and inducement to accept the offer, the Genesee Conference's Advance Program arranged to give Lincoln Memorial Church toward the suggested purchase located at the intersection of Howard and Monroe Streets. In accepting this favorable offer, the Lincoln Memorial, purchased for \$9

On July 4, 1954, the Lincoln Memorial congregation moved in with the Trinity Methodist Church congregation. The two groups functioned in the same building for seven months thereafter. Be it said to the praise of both groups that they lived together for seven months without a single incident to mar their cordial and Christian relationship.

As a result of a combination of efforts, the present mortgage indebtedness on the newly purchased church home of our congregation is \$27,000.00. Shortly, we will be engaged in a financial campaign through which we hope to raise a minimum of \$35,000.00. This amount will enable us to cancel our indebtedness and to meet some of the imperative needs of our church program. We appeal to every member, and to all our friends, for full-hearted support of our efforts. The present membership of the church is 600 persons. This means that we have the potential for the success of our campaign.

WILLIAM H. HORNER, PASTOR

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- THE CANVASS -

During the next few days you and every resident member and friend of our Church will be visited and be given an opportunity to subscribe to our Mortgage Fund. There is nothing complicated about our financial plan and it is most certainly not to be a high-pressure canvass. It will consist of one Christian calling upon another to discuss together the need of the Church and their mutual responsibility in meeting it.

The enterprise has not been lightly undertaken by the congregation, and the kind of giving which is required calls for serious thought and prayer. After a full presentation of our plans, and discussion of your contribution, you will be asked to sign a subscription card. In making your subscription you will be expressing your sincere purpose to pay a certain amount, week by week. Questions of continued earning power or residence should not affect your decision. If adversity or increased prosperity should come, the amount of the pledge may be changed. You will be the one to decide how much your pledge will be, but you may need such guidance as this brochure or your visitor can provide in reaching a decision. The member who calls upon you will be prepared to discuss the entire plan, and will be able to indicate to you the kind of subscriptions that are being made.

For the average person the simplest way to subscribe a substantial sum is to do so by weekly payments, on the first day of the week - the Lord's Day - in the manner prescribed in the New Testament. Consequently, there will be no appeal for cash payments. This is not something to be hurriedly put out of the way, but something to live with during the next three years. Envelopes will be provided in due course for payments over a period of one hundred and fifty weeks. The Church will come through this canvass gloriously enriched if each individual subscribes an amount which reflects a willingness to sacrifice.

- AN INVESTMENT -

However sincere one's religion and life may be it is not easy to accept the high standards of giving which must be adopted when church building or mortgage fund campaigns are undertaken. The natural approach which most people make to the matter of a mortgage fund subscription is to relate it to what is regularly subscribed to the church budget. A little thought, however, and a little figuring will make it evident that a mortgage fund subscription resembling the budget contribution would be altogether inadequate. This generation may never have another opportunity to participate in a church building program. This appeal is non-recurring and for that reason our gifts should be many times larger than our gifts to those causes which require our annual support. A better approach is made when the mortgage fund subscription is thought of as an investment rather than as a gift, and an investment which is at least as important as many other conveniences which most families can secure only through extended payments. If one

can think of the church as a spiritual home in which one has a share, and which - like a family residence - it is expensive to own, the proper standard of giving can readily be seen. The accumulation of weekly contributions over a period of 150 will make possible a much larger contribution than could be paid in a lump sum.

- HOW MUCH SHALL I GIVE? -

One by one we have to face this question. It is so with all the great issues of life. Others may suggest to us what seems to be the thing to do, but we have to make our own decisions. The Lord himself will prompt us, and lead us, as we come to the act of giving, but He leaves each one of us to decide on the amount of our gift.

The first step towards a satisfying answer to the question, "How Much Shall I Give?" is by changing the wording of the question to, "How Much Can I Give?". Having done that there is scriptural guidance: "After all the important thing is to be willing to give as much as we can - that is what God accepts, and no one is asked to give what he has not got." (II Corinthians 8:12) And again, "Let everyone give as his heart tells him, neither grudgingly nor under compulsion, for God loves the man whose heart is in his gift God can give you everything that you need, so that you may always have sufficient both for yourselves and for giving away to other people." (II Corinthians 9: 7,8).

The problem that remains, and it is a real problem even for willing givers, is to find a place for a special gift in a family budget which already includes generous giving. There is no way around that problem, and in such circumstances the only thing that can be done is to change the family budget. To do that will most likely involve sacrifice, but then it has been recognized from the outset that the completion of this project can be accomplished only by sacrificial giving.

We do not need to be afraid of the call to sacrifice if we thoroughly understand what the term means. Sacrifice has been well defined as the surrender of some desirable thing in behalf of a higher object. The Christian religion is based on sacrifice, particularly as seen in the example of Jesus.

Strangely enough, sacrifice ceases to be a sacrifice when the gift is made willingly and deliberately. If your gift is truly sacrificial, whatever the amount may be, it will not be burdensome, and it will bring to you a peace of mind and a quiet joy which can come in no other way.

- HOW TO MAKE OUR GIFTS -

In the careful - and prayerful - consideration of "How Much Shall I Give?" we should think of several points, for the size of our pledges will depend upon:

1. Our understanding of Christian Stewardship
2. Our interest in our Church program
3. Our recognition of the need
4. Our financial ability
5. Our method of paying the pledges
6. Our willingness to sacrifice or carry our fair proportionate share.
7. Our desire to encourage others to sacrifice
8. Our willingness to trust God and believe His promises
9. Our recognition of our need for spiritual growth through better giving habits.

One of the greatest experiences in life is that of helping a church grow. To help extend the services of the church in the community is to widen ones own horizons of Christian living. Until we have made an investment in the mortgage fund of our church, we are more or less accepting the far-sighted charity of others every time we or our children use the church facilities.

Remember that the greatest effect of sacrificial pledging is upon the givers themselves. The spiritual value of sacrifice has been known to man since before Christianity. There would be no Christians today if it were not for the great sacrifices of our early leaders. You and your family are requested to begin now giving serious, prayerful consideration to the amount you will endeavor to contribute to your church.

Your church does not challenge your ability to give - It challenges your willingness to give - your willingness to sacrifice - your willingness to carry your fair proportionate share! The diameter of the sacrifice you make, will be the true measure of the circumference of your love of God and of your neighbor.

YOUR PLEDGE SHOULD BE...One determined after prayer for God's guidance... One that brings an inner conviction of satisfaction...One about which you can talk about to others without apology.

OUR URGENT AND IMMEDIATE NEEDS

"A fund raising campaign is very necessary for Lincoln Memorial Methodist Church at this time for the following reasons:

1. The church is now operating at a deficit because of its inadequate income to meet normal operating expenses.
2. Repairs to the exterior and interior of the church building are quite urgent at this time.
3. A fund raising campaign, successfully conducted, would eliminate the mortgage indebtedness on the church and parsonage, make possible vital repairs and improvements and put the church on a sound financial footing."

--Dr. Frederick D. Gordon
President, Board of Trustees

"For the past two years weekly contributions have not been sufficient to meet current expenses such as electricity, gas, fuel and salaries. The difficulty encountered in keeping abreast with these expenses precludes the possibility of retiring the outstanding mortgages and of purchasing the insurances necessary. The church at present is protected by about one-half the amount of insurance that should be carried on a church of this size. We should have liability insurance to compensate for accidents.

"Repairs to the building are long overdue. Light switches throughout the building need to be replaced with modern equipment. Repair of the roof is an absolute necessity.

"The purchase of auxiliary space heaters would cut fuel costs. It is now necessary to heat the entire building for a meeting confined to one room for a short period of time. Radiators in the main sanctuary would reduce the expense involved in having the heat travel such a great distance.

"Flood lights should be purchased for the protection of the building. No less important is the need for a water cooler and adequate office equipment."

--S. L. Thomas
Church Treasurer

"In the light of the proposed future program of the church, it is imperative that we have a successful financial campaign at this time. Once free from our mortgage indebtedness, we can then make certain necessary repairs to our church property, conduct a program of renovation of the same, revamp our heating plant to increase its efficiency, institute a full-time janitorial service, and expand our program to more largely meet the growing needs of this community. There is full reason why each member should support our present efforts. The goal of \$35,000.00 is easily within the reach of our congregation. We can do this task with the help of each one in our church family."

--Benjamin F. Long

Financial Secretary

"Why our financial campaign is needed:

1. To pay a debt of approximately \$7,500 to the Marine Trust Co.
2. To pay Board of Missions our long overdue debt.
3. Our church roof is leaking, badly in need of repairs.
4. Our heating system badly needs repairs.
5. Complete renovation of the church, both inside and out, would give us quite a push toward progress.
6. If, through this campaign, we can get our heavy indebtedness paid, and a good start on many of our badly needed repairs, we feel that we can carry on with success.
7. We are praying and working for success."

--Garretta C. Dobbins
Vice President, Trustees

"It is my belief that Lincoln Memorial Methodist Church will greatly benefit by the launching of a financial campaign."

"As president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, naturally, I speak of those reasons mostly affecting us. The church indebtedness keeps the rather small nucleus of workers tremendously busy, in that we must supplement all financial efforts which require much of our time. This takes immeasurably from furthering our missionary program, to say the least.

"So - to have this burden of indebtedness lightened by professional planning would give, not only the WSCS more time and more money to carry on its immediate work, but would benefit all other auxiliaries.

"The careful planning of our money-raising will enrich our church, our community, and ourselves with a spiritual girding of untold power."

--Foristine H. Brown
President, WSCS

"I am in hearty accord with the decision reached by our Official Board and Finance Commission that we should have a campaign to liquidate the remainder of our mortgage indebtedness. Upon the accomplishment of this objective, the church will then be free to render a larger and much needed service to this community and the Kingdom of God. The proposed effort deserves, and should have, the full and sacrificial support of each member of the church."

--Elizabeth Dorsey
Secretary, WSCS

"Lincoln Memorial Methodist Church needs a financial campaign for the following reasons:

1. Alleviate our financial burdens.
2. Make necessary improvements and repairs to the church's physical structure.
3. Effectively contact each member to make him aware of his financial responsibility to the church.
4. To relieve our pastor and financial officers of embarrassment.

"Our offerings are not sufficient to maintain the necessary budget to operate the church. I earnestly urge each member and friend to give as generously as possible whereby we may better serve God and the community."

--Charley H. Fisher, Jr.
Trustee

"I feel that the church would benefit in many ways by having a fund raising campaign.

"First, and most important, the debts against the church could be paid. Then, we could improve the grounds around the church. Moreover, the church building could be renovated, which is greatly needed.

"When the church is debt-free and adequately renewed, a much greater service could be rendered to both God and the community.

"Finally, when the church is out of debt, the current income may be used for very important things such as raising the pastor's salary, hiring a full-time janitor and secretary."

--Peter Borden
Chairman, Benevolence Committee

"Why I think we should have a financial campaign:

1. We need the money to pay our church mortgage.
2. Our church needs a better heating system.
3. Our church needs a new roof.
4. Our church needs new furniture.
5. Our church organ needs repairing.
6. Our church needs decorating.
7. Our church needs new plumbing fixtures.
8. Our church needs a better drainage system."

--Blanche Nelson
President, Stewards Board

"The staff of the Lincoln Memorial Methodist Sunday School wishes to support the fund raising campaign under the direction of Dr. Stewart.

"We feel that the employment of a professional man, skilled in the techniques of business, will stimulate our membership to assume their financial responsibilities.

--Dorothy A. Green
Superintendent